DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

YELLOWSTONE PARK, WYO.

OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

May 10, 1919.

The Director,
National Park Service,
Department of the Interior,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to submit my report of conditions in the park for the month of April, 1919:

GENERAL STATEMENT.

The Yellowstone National Park was set aside by Act of Congress March 1, 1872, (Secs. 2474 and 2475, R. S., 17 Stat., 32) as a pleasuring-ground for the benefit and enjoyment of the people, and placed under the control of the Secretary of the Interior, who was authorized to make such rules and regulations as he deems necessary for the care and maintenance of the park. It is situated principally in northwestern Wyoming, but laps over a little more than two miles into Montana on the north, and about two miles into Montana and Idaho on the west. Its dimensions are about 62 miles north and south, and about 54 miles east and west, giving an area of about 3,348 square miles, or 2,142,720 acres. Its altitude is 6,000 to 11,000 feet.

The park was governed by civilian superintendents, assisted by a few scouts, from the time it was set aside until August 10, 1886, when, under authority contained in the Sundry Civil Act, approved March 3, 1883, at the request of the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of War detailed troops of United States Cavalry to protect it, the commanding officer acting as park superintendent under the direct orders of the Secretary of the Interior. On October 16, 1916, by mutual agreement of the heads of the Interior and War Departments, the troops were withdrawn from the park and their work of patroling and protecting the park was again taken over by civilians selected for the purpose by the Secretary of the Interior. A clause contained in the Sundry Civil Act, approved June 12, 1917, (Public No. 21, 65th Congress) made it obligatory to use troops for patroling the park, and they were returned by the War Department on June 26, 1917, relieving the park super-

intendent of so much of the duties as pertained to "protection". Congress again made provisions for the employment of a force of civilian rangers to protect the park, on July 1, 1918; and a force of twenty-five rangers was organized and took over this work at the end of the 1918 tourist season; and Fort Yellowstone was formally abandoned at the close of November 1, 1918. The same act of Congress which appropriated funds for protection of the park also placed the appropriations for maintenance and improvement under the Secretary of the Interior, instead of under the Secretary of War, as heretofore, and permitted the combining of all work under this office.

The local office of the U. S. Weather Bureau, Department of Agriculture, is in charge of Mr. G. E. Lawton, Observer. Temperature and precipitation records are also made by the rangers at several of the stations, for the Weather Bureau.

The United States Department of Justice is represented by Mr. John W. Meldrum, United States Commissioner, who is authorized to try all violators of park rules, regulations or laws. Mr. Meldrum has been away on leave since January 21st.

Park headquarters for all departments and most of the concessioners is located at Mammoth Hot Springs. 269 miles of telephone line connect headquarters with sub-stations. A hydro-electric power plant furnishes the light for buildings and grounds at headquarters. Water, electric current, and telephone service are furnished other departments of the Government in the park by the National Park Service, without charge. During April the hydro-electric power plant was run daily from 4:00 p.m. until noon, and was continued during the afternoon when any necessity existed for so doing.

CONDITIONS FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL.

The mean temperature was 39.4, which was 2.4 above normal. The total precipitation according to the weather reports was 1.41 inches of water, which is 0.3 inch more than the normal amount for April. Total snowfall for month, 7.8 inches.

There was practically no snow on the ground at headquarters at the end of April, and it had also disappeared from the roads in the park in many places. In Sylvan Pass there were still from 15 to 20 feet at the point where big drifts usually occur, but this is soft; and indications are that the

roads can be opened without difficulty before the beginning of the tourist season on June 20th.

A copy of the Monthly Meteorological Report is inclosed herewith.

EMPLOYEES.

I was absent from the park, on duty in Washington and on leave, from March 20th to April 29th, leaving Mr. Hill in charge during my absence.

Mr. George E. Goodwin, Civil Engineer, National Park Service, whose headquarters are in Yellowstone, left for the Pacific Coast on March 10th, and returned on April 28th.

The following-named regular employees were carried on the payrolls during the month of April:

1 Chief Clerk (Acting Superintendent)
1 Purchasing Clerk and Special Disbursing Agent
1 Clerk, April 24th to 30th, inclusive
4 Clerks
1 Assistant Engineer
2 Electricians
4 Assistant Chief Rangers
6 First-class Park Rangers
15 Park Rangers
2 Linemen
1 Plumber
2 Telephone Switchboard Operators
2 Foremen
1 Blacksmith
1 Overseer, April 16th to 30th, inclusive
1 Handyman
1 Laborer
1 Watchman

In addition to these, one assistant electrician was employed, temporarily, to assist in operating the power plant, pending certification of eligibles for appointment by the Civil Service Commission; and several carpenters, gas-enginemen, chauffeurs, etc., were employed for temporary service to keep up the work of construction and maintenance at headquarters and on the Gardiner Slide road.

DISTRIBUTION OF PARK RANGERS.

Assistant Chief Ranger James McBride (Acting Chief Ranger) was stationed at headquarters, directing the work of rangers at stations. He also made inspection trips to Crevice Station and the Tower Falls and Soda Butte districts.

Assistant Chief Ranger James P. Brooks was in charge of Bechler, Snake River, Lake, Canyon and Sylvan Pass districts, comprising the southern division. He made long patrols during the month, covering the country from headquarters to Madison Junction, Upper Basin, Thumb, Lake, the Central Plateau in the southern end of the park, Hayden Valley, and Sylvan Pass.

Assistant Chief Ranger Charles J. Smith was stationed at headquarters in charge of the chief ranger's office. He also made several motorcycle patrols in the vicinity of headquarters.

Assistant Chief Ranger Harry Trischman made a long trip from headquarters, covering Riverside Station; Upper Basin; Morris; Central Plateau; Hayden Valley; Cole, Mist and Slough Creeks; Hellroaring and Cottonwood Creeks north of the Yellowstone River; and back to headquarters. On this trip he covered 286 miles on skis and snowshoes. He was with Ranger Brooks on this trip until they separated at Mist Creek, Brooks going from there to Sylvan Pass. They saw 52 wild buffalo on Pelican Creek and 38 on Saddle Mountain, and found one dead one at Turbid Lake.

First-class Park Ranger B. C. Lacombe was in charge of the tame buffalo herd, and was assisted at the Buffalo Farm by one laborer. The buffalo were fed hay the first few days of the month, when they were turned out on the range, as the snow had left and the grass was sufficient for them.

First-class Park Ranger Court B. Dewing was stationed at Gardiner, and made extensive patrols from Sepulchre Mountain to Blacktail Deer Creek. He killed two coyotes during the month.

First-class Park Ranger Peter Lawson was in charge of Gallatin Station. He visited headquarters April 26th to 30th, coming in via Big Horn Pass. He also made important patrols from the station, counting 982 elk inside of the park during the month.

First-class Park Ranger Thad C. Pound was in charge of Gardiner Station, and made a few local patrols by motorcycle.

First-class Park Ranger Henry Anderson was in charge of Soda Butte district, and was assisted by Ranger Winn. Ander-

son saw the same 38 wild buffalo on Saddle Mountain that were reported by Ranger Trischman.

First-class Park Ranger Roby Roy Wisdom was in charge of Lake Station. He made one trip to headquarters April 12th to 15th, and made other patrols in his district and in the Canyon district.

Park Ranger Ford Purdy was in charge of Riverside district, and made the regular patrols of that district during the month.

Park Ranger E. F. Cushman was in charge of Norris Station. He made local patrols from this station, and put in considerable time in making improvements to the station building and the surroundings. He made one trip to headquarters during the month.

Park Ranger James N. Dupuis was in charge of Crevice Station. He made patrols aggregating 102 miles during the month, and put in about a week policing around the station and cutting wood.

Park Ranger Frank J. Winess was in charge of Bechler Station, and accompanied Assistant Chief Ranger Brooks on his patrols through that district. The man at that station also put in considerable time policing around the station and cutting wood.

Park Ranger J. W. Kline was in charge of Snake River Station, and made regular patrols from that station, including one trip from there to Moran post office and one to Bechler Station.

Park Ranger Chester B. Kelley was in charge of Tower Falls Station. He made extensive patrols through this district, and reports having seen 5,700 elk during the month, all in excellent condition.

Laurence Mazzanovich was stationed with Ranger Wisdom at the Lake, but during the month spent about a week at Canyon Station patroling from there. He also made a trip to the Thumb, and visited headquarters April 26th to 28th.

Park Ranger William Purdue was stationed at Snake River, but most of his time during the month was occupied in patroling with Assistant Chief Ranger Brooks on Upper Snake River and other points in the southern part of the park.

Park Ranger George Winn was stationed at Soda Butte

with Anderson, and reports that he traveled a total of 284 miles in making patrols in that district.

Park Ranger William Wiggins was stationed at headquarters, where he did miscellaneous work under the direction of Chief Ranger McBride. He also made patrols aggregating 109 miles, from headquarters in different directions.

Other park rangers were stationed as follows: Joseph Douglas, at Gallatin Station--visited headquarters April 26th to 30th; Roy T. Frazier, at Crevice Station--on leave from the 7th to 20th; A. L. McLaughlin, at Gardiner Station, where he patroled 338 miles and killed one coyote; James Russell, at Bechler Station; and Fred J. Townsend, at Riverside Station.

Other permanent employees were on duty at headquarters, maintaining office and storehouse, shops, telephone lines, power plant, buildings, water and sewer systems, etc.; and others were engaged in engineering and improvement work: remodeling buildings at headquarters, construction, etc., under the direction of Civil Engineer Goodwin.

Leaves of absence: The following leaves of absence were granted during the month of April, 1919:

Park Ranger James N. Dupuis, April 1st to noon of 2nd, 1½ days.

Telephone Switchboard Operator Ralph L. Shultz, April 3rd to noon of 7th, 3½ days.

Park Ranger Roy T. Frazier, April 7th to 20th, 12 days.

Blacksmith William J. O'Laughlin, April 5th to 9th, incl., 4 days.

Lineman Eri A. Allan, April 10th to noon the 12th, 2½ days.

First-class Park Ranger Court B. Dewing, April 9th to 14th, inclusive, 5 days.

Clerk Andrew R. Edwin, April 20th to noon of 29th, 7½ days.

Chauncey M. Sweney, Electrician, April 7th to 13th, inclusive, 6 days.

Appointments: William J. O'Laughlin was appointed Blacksmith, effective April 1st, at $1200 per annum, by change in designation from Foreman, at $1140 per annum with subsistence.

Vacancies: The following vacancies existed in our regular force at the close of April, 1919:

1 Chief Ranger
4 Park Rangers
1 Assistant Electrician
1 Buffalo Keeper
1 Assistant Buffalo Keeper.

Arrangements are being made with the Civil Service Commission to make permanent appointments to several positions now filled by temporary employees.

Purchase of War Savings Stamps: During April employees of this office purchased War Savings Stamps to the amount of $456.50.

ANIMALS, DOMESTIC.

The saddle and draft animals not in use were kept on winter pasture at Yancey's, with one teamster in charge of the herd. It was necessary to feed hay that was put up there for that purpose for a part of the month only. Several teams were brought in.

GRAZING.

The winter grazing for elk, deer, sheep, and antelope was first-clas. No hay was fed them during the winter. About 6 tons of hay were fed to the tame buffalo herd during the early days of the month, until they were turned out on grass after the snow went off.

FOREST FIRES.

No forest fires occurred during the month.

FISH.

Fishing was fairly good in the vicinity of headquarters and the western entrance, and was enjoyed to a considerable extent by local parties.

MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENT.

Work accomplished in the way of improvements and construction, under direction of Civil Engineer Goodwin, during the month of April was approximately as follows:

During the month the mechanics in the garage engaged in overhauling auto trucks and cars. The men in the shop, in addition to general work, made repairs to road machinery and equipment. The carpenters were engaged in making repairs and alterations to buildings about headquarters, and also began the construction of the three mess wagons which are to be used in the park this summer by construction crews.

A crew, consisting of about 15 men and 9 teams, was organized and a camp established in the Gardiner Canyon for the purpose of getting out gravel to be used in making repairs to the north entrance road and surfacing the newly constructed road around the Gardiner slide. The new gravel loaders were used successfully in the gravel pits.

The office building at headquarters, which underwent several changes in internal arrangement of partitions during the winter, was thoroughly renovated during April.

A telegraphic connection was made into our office with the Western Union lines in Helena, Montana, through the wires of the Yellowstone Park Hotel Company at Mammoth; and arrangements have been made to secure the services of a telegraph operator.

General office and engineering work was carried on, also the inspection and oversight of the contract work being done on the road in the Gardiner Canyon. The contractors, Gibbons and Reed Company, conducted the work under their contract, approved November 4, 1918, for the construction of a road through the Gardiner Canyon. Favorable weather conditions were experienced, and about 30 to 35 men and 12 teams were used on the work during the month. The quantities allotted in the estimate for the month consisted of 3,035 cubic yards class 1 excavation; 333 cubic yards class 2 excavation; 104.7 cubic yards class 3 excavation; 95.69 cubic yards concrete in culverts; and 52 lineal feet of 24-inch culvert pipe laid. The excavating for the grade on this work is practically completed and the road has been open to travel since April 14th.

This work was not finished within the time allowed by the contract, namely, May 1st; though to finish the job

the contractors have only to perform such work as placing a few small culverts, dressing off slopes, and excavating ditches. They will probably be through by May 15th.

The office engineering work for the month consisted principally of work incidental to the carrying on of the Gibbons and Reed contract. Plans were made for the new auto truck sprinkling wagons.

By concessioners: The Yellowstone Park Hotel Company employed two Chinamen preparing its garden for a crop, and its chief engineer came to the park and began preparing for next season's operations.

The Yellowstone Park Transportation Company employed a few mechanics to overhaul motor transportation.

The Yellowstone Park Camping Company had a few men on the ground the latter part of the month, preparing tents for the main crew which is now engaged in making improvements at Mammoth Camp, under plans furnished by the Service.

MONIES TRANSMITTED.

The usual report of monies collected, due, transmitted, etc., together with money order and check, totaling $21.75, as called for in the reports on Forms 10-59 and 10-60, are inclosed. Please acknowledge receipt.

NATURAL PHENOMENA.

No changes were noted in the natural phenomena of the park during April.

TRAVEL CONDITIONS.

Eleven visitors registered at the north entrance during the month, as shown by the inclosed copy of Chief Ranger's Monthly Travel Report for April.

The road between headquarters and Gardiner, down the Gardiner Canyon, was completed to such an extent that motor cars began going through on April 14th; and the old road over the hill back of Mammoth Hotel has been practically abandoned since that time.

At the end of April the road from Mammoth to Norris, west entrance, and Upper Basin, also the road to Soda Butte,

were open for motor transportation. A little shoveling was done in Golden Gate and near Crystal Spring on the Norris road during the latter part of April, and the first vehicle over the road, a seven-passenger car belonging to the Yellowstone Park Transportation Company, went to Upper Basin the evening of May 3d. One of our light trucks went to Tower Falls Station and returned on May 3d without any particular difficulty, and without the necessity of shoveling any snow. This is a most unusual condition, as there is scarcely another season on record when these roads were free from snow so early in the spring.

VISITORS.

Eleven visitors registered at the northern entrance, and one at the western entrance, during the month of April, as shown by the inclosed report of travel.

COMPLAINTS.

No complaints were received.

WILD ANIMALS.

The spring weather, like that of the past winter, was most favorable to the welfare of the wild animals, and the number that died from usual trying conditions during the period just before the green grass is available was very few.

Elk: Most of the elk that left the park down Yellowstone Valley are believed to have returned to the park during the month. Several thousand elk were seen by rangers on patrol; and, as a rule, they report them in excellent condition with a prospect for a good crop of calves. But 19 dead ones were reported as having been found, of which 17 were calves, which are less apt to have the vitality to withstand the trials of spring conditions.

Deer: Deer are still seen in numbers in the vicinity of headquarters. They are in good condition, and the bucks have begun to grow a new set of horns.

Buffalo: (Wild Herd). Reports of the wild herd of buffalo are most encouraging that have been received for several years. During April Rangers Trischman and Brooks saw 52 on Pelican Creek, and Rangers Trischman and Anderson saw another herd of 38 on Saddle Mountain, making a total of 90 which are known to exist. Ranger Trischman found one dead one at Turbid Lake. Inasmuch as a few of the tame herd have not been located

since the death of Keeper Frazier, I was of the opinion that possibly a part of the herd seen on Saddle Mountain was from the Buffalo Farm; but the rangers do not think this is true, and believe the tame ones can be accounted for when the snow leaves Specimen Ridge this spring.

(Tame Herd). The herd was fed hay for a few days early in the month, then turned out to grass, but they are being kept away from the areas where they contracted hemorrhagic septicemia last winter. One three-year-old cow died during April. She was found in Lamar River, evidently having slipped off the bridge and been injured so she drowned. The first calf came on April 15th; the total number to date is 44, and there are probably nearly as many more to come.

Antelope: The small herd of antelope was reported in excellent condition. Several were seen in the vicinity of Tower Falls, indicating that they were working back towards the summer feeding grounds in the mountains. Four dead ones were found.

Wolves and coyotes: No wolves were killed during the month, and no reports were made of their presence. Fourteen coyotes were reported as killed; but some of these had been killed in previous months and not found until April. Rangers Dewing and Anderson were the only ones devoting special time to the work of exterminating these animals, special hunters Elkins and Harkins having been laid off in March.

PROTECTION AND CARE OF GAME.

No feeding or special care of the animals was required. They were well protected from poachers by numerous patrols throughout the park, and there were no reports to indicate any poaching at any time within the limits of the park. The Forest Service continued the special patrols in the interests of game protection in the Absaroka National Forest adjoining the park.

ARRESTS AND VIOLATIONS OF THE LAW.

No arrests were made during the month, and no violation of law was reported.

SANITATION AND DISEASE.

No sanitary work was undertaken during the month, except around the buildings at headquarters.

A case of scarlet fever in the family of Chauncey M. Sweney, employed as an assistant electrician at headquarters, resulted in the death of the youngest boy in the family of four boys, on April 24th. He was attended by Doctor Townsend, of Chico Hot Springs. Burial took place in the cemetery here on April 25th. The next youngest boy in the family also contracted the disease on April 30th, and is now convalescent. The family is still in quarantine, and every precaution is taken to prevent its spreading.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Moving picture shows have been held weekly for the general amusement of residents at headquarters.

PROPOSED WORK FOR APRIL.

Continued maintenance and improvement work under direction of Civil Engineer Goodwin, including graveling the road between headquarters and Gardiner, smoothing up and making spring repairs to park roads as fast as they are freed from snow, installing machinery in new garage building as it is received, getting out posts and poles for repairing fences at the Buffalo Farm, and building and improving roads into the permanent camps, also the placing of the metal signs purchased last year for the information and guidance of travellers in the park.

Employment of men to do general police work in the park preparatory to opening of the tourist season, including making improvements to general public camps, moving the public camp at Mammoth, and installing additional camps at other points if practicable.

Maintenance and repair of buildings, water and sewer systems, power plant, and telephone lines.

Special care of wild animals, and keeping up of patrols for poachers and extermination of carnivora. Repairs to ranger stations and outbuildings in the park, and general outline and preparation for patrols, auto checking, and summer work in general, including selection and appointment of additional rangers for the work.

Cultivation of land already under ditch at Gardiner for raising hay for wild animals. Cultivation of land on Lamar River for raising hay for tame buffalo and other animals.

Reorganization of ranger and office force to provide for changes in personnel and additional men taken on to provide

for the season's work.

Very respectfully,

Chester A. Lindsley,

CAL:ACW

Acting Superintendent.

Incls.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WEATHER BUREAU.

Weather Conditions----Mammoth Hot Springs.

April, 1919.

perature: Monthly mean,39.4°. Departure, #2.4°. The temperature was below the normal during the period 5th to 16th,inclusive and above during the remaining days of the month. The highest,69° occurred on the 24th and the lowest,15° on the 16th.

cipitation: Total, 1.41 inch. Departure, #0.03 inch. Precipitation fell on MM 8 days and was fairly well distributed.

wfall: Total, 7.8 inches. The fall was slightly below the normal.

d: Total for the month about normal. Maximum velocity of 40 miles per hour occurred on the 4th.

shine: Percentage of possible, 48 which is about 10 below the normal.

G. E. Lawton,
Observer.

lowstone Park, Wyo.
3, 1919.